

# COVID-19 Notice

Thursday 02 April 2020



## AMPDS Protocol

In response to the COVID-19 situation, all UK ambulance services and the National Ambulance Service of Ireland are implementing a specific AMPDS protocol for use in categorising medical 999 calls, known as Card 36. This has been agreed by Chief Executives and Medical Directors of all services. The new protocol has several benefits:

- ▶ ·It allows more for specific questioning of patients to assess the likelihood of COVID symptoms so that crews can be pre-warned of the need to don appropriate PPE, supplementing the screening questions that NIAS has been asking callers for the past few weeks
- ▶ ·It is better at determining the severity of COVID-19 symptoms so that patients can be given more specific advice
- ▶ · As the demand on ambulance services increases it will allow 999 responses to continue to be prioritised to ALL those patients with immediately life threatening and serious conditions, regardless of whether they may be resulting from COVID-19 or not.

Responding crews should be aware that they will now see many Card 36 / Pandemic calls presenting on vehicle MDT's which would previously have been triaged through the specific chest pain / breathing problems or general medical protocols – this indicates only that the call has been processed by EAC using the Card 36 protocol, but will contain information on the likelihood of any COVID symptoms.